

Serial No. 09/557,835
Attorney's Docket No. 1948-4706
Reply to final Office Action mailed Oct. 21, 2003

REMARKS

The above amendments and following remarks are responsive to all the points of rejection raised by the Examiner in the Office Action dated October 21, 2003, in the above-identified application.

Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1-11 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 4 and 8 have been amended. No new matter has been introduced by this Amendment. Entry and consideration of this Amendment are respectfully requested.

RESPONSE TO REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102:

Claims 1-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Staiger et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,065,287, hereafter Staiger). Additionally, claims 1-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102 (e) as being anticipated by Jiao et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,007,224). More specifically, the Examiner believes that both Staiger and Jiao discloses each element recited in claims 1-11. However, Applicants traverse the above rejections for the following reasons.

Staiger is directed to a method for producing a reflective surface for distributing light from a light source according to a desired light pattern for application with a vehicle headlight. In the Office Action (page 2), the Examiner relies on Fig. 6 of Staiger for maintaining the above rejections.

However, Fig. 6 of Staiger does not disclose the creation of “at least two distinct zones of maximum light intensity with different angular offsets,” as recited in claims 1 & 8 of the present invention. A close reading of Staiger suggests only that the light intensity may vary continuously across the surface to be illuminated (See also col. 8, lines 29-35). Although, Fig.

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6 does illustrate two illuminated areas 8, nothing in Staiger suggests that these areas 8 are of maximum light intensity, or their angular offset with respect to each another.

Therefore, claims 1 and 8 are believed to be distinguishable over Staiger at least for the reasons noted above. Likewise, claims 2-7 and 9-11 are also distinguishable over Staiger based on their dependency from claims 1 and 8, respectively.

Jiao is directed to an automotive headlamp reflector divided into zones. The division of the zones is dependent on the sizes of the light source images produced by various parts of the reflector. In the Office Action (page 3), the Examiner relies on Fig. 3 of Jiao for illustrating all the claimed features of the present invention and for maintaining the above rejections.

Accordingly, Applicants have herein amended claims 1 and 8 to further distinguishing over Jiao and to expedite prosecution of the application. More specifically, claims 1 and 8 have been amended to more particularly point out that "at least one of the claimed distinct zones is located on the outer edge of the reflective surface." This feature is not believed to be disclosed by Jiao. Support for these proposed claim changes can be found illustrated in Figs. 2 & 3 of the present application.

Conversely, Fig. 3 of Jiao discloses that the maximum areas of light intensity are located in "zone A," which is the area closest to the light source (See also col. 5, lines 36-42).

Therefore, claims 1 and 8 are believed to be distinguishable over Jiao at least for the reasons noted above. Likewise, claims 2-7 and 9-11 are also distinguishable over Jiao based on their dependency from claims 1 and 8, respectively.

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CONCLUSIONS

In view of the above amendments and arguments, Applicants respectfully submit that all of the pending claims are patentable over the prior art of record, and are now in condition for allowance.

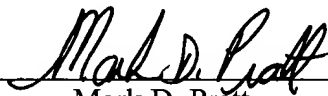
AUTHORIZATIONS

A check for \$110.00 is enclosed to cover the fees for the one-month extension of time. The Commissioner is also hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this filing to Deposit Account No. 13-4503, Order No. 1948-4706. Likewise, any overpayment is credited to Deposit Account No. 13-4503, Order No. 1948-4706.

Respectfully submitted,
MORGAN & FINNEGAN, L.L.P.

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By:


Mark D. Pratt

Reg. No.:45,794
(202) 857-7887 Telephone
(202) 857-7929 Facsimile

CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS:
Morgan & Finnegan, LLP
345 Park Avenue
New York, NY 10154